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DEFINITION OF A TRUST.

It seems a great pity that such a word as "trust" should acquire a new and somewhat unsavory significance, says the Ledger. The meaning which the word had in its original and primary use is closely related to the word "true," which has the same root. What is true may be relied upon, and trust is reliance upon the truth, or upon the veracity, integrity, justice, friendship or other virtue or sound principle of another.

Now it happens that the word trust is applied to any large corporation that seeks to establish a monopoly or restrict competition. The solicitor of the Standard Oil Company defines a trust as embracing every act, agreement or combination of persons or capital believed to be done, made or formed with the intent, power or tendency to monopolize business, to restrain or interfere with competitive trade, or to fix, influence or increase the price of commodities.

OUR SENSIBLE PRESIDENT.

The president of the United States is nothing if he is not prompt, and his remarks to the Panama rail road commission last week are as timely and gratifying as they are unusual. After pointing out to the commission that the work they are about to undertake is the most important and formidable engineering feat that has been attempted hitherto, the president said:

"I have not sought to find out the politics of a single one of you and, indeed, as to the majority of you, I have not the slightest idea what your political affiliations are. I believe that each of you will serve not only with entire fidelity, but with the utmost efficiency. If at any time I feel that any one of you is not rendering the best service which it is possible to procure I shall feel called upon to disregard my feelings for the man and the man's own feelings and forthwith to substitute for him on the commission some other man whom I deem capable of rendering better service. * * I shall expect you to appoint no man for reasons other than your belief in the aid he can render you in digging the canal. The commission is further enjoined to pay no heed to political influence or backing and to treat their stupendous task with the same attention to cost and quality as would be devoted to a private enterprise; their particular attention is called to the question of sanitation and hygiene."

With such assurances as this from the president of the United States the public may feel sure that ordinary methods of log rolling and political jobbery will be eliminated from the operations of the commission, says the Railway Age, and this belief will be accentuated by the public reputation and dignity of each of its members.

DAN LAMONT'S THREAT.

Lamont swears in metaphorical indignation that, if it comes to a choice between Roosevelt and Hearst, he will make a break for the jungle. Dan has in mind the overgrown swamp bordering the banks of Salt river, that sorrowful stream up which his party has so often sailed before. Daniel says furthermore that if his party forces him in among the rank and growth of a retreat so hot and

slimy he will not be alone in his miasmic asylum. The inference is, of course, that the heavyweights of the Cleveland faction will join him. Considering the elephantine proportion of Grover's last cabinet and the pachydermatous girth of Cleveland's Wall street friends, the jungle is the best place for the whole outfit. But, unless in their disgust they wish to be fossilized before their time, the political and financial mastodons had better be cautious not to do too much trumpeting lest the Hearst and Bryan bushmen tom-tom them into the open and drive the whole herd into pitfalls of political oblivion out of which there is no floundering.

It looks as if these fractional fights of the democracy would continue no matter the choice of the Jeffersonian-Tilden party at the St. Louis convention, for Bryan, though a bod metal boomer, is a good hater and Cleveland is no slouch in the detestation business. Each has his following in about the ratio of 16 to 1, though as compared with Bryan's influence the latter figure fairly represents the ex-president's power over the democratic masses. Nevertheless this lone numeral stands for Wall street for many of the great protected and industrial corporations throughout the country that are mistrustful of President Roosevelt's fairness to labor.

Can these quarreling factions of the democratic party be harmonized? Not unless the St. Louis convention frames Cleveland and Hearst up together. But the days of miracles have passed. The coalescence of these two elements of the shattered democracy is about as likely as the political union of Ben Tillman and Booker Washington running on an anti-lynch, free rum platform.

There has just been discovered in the far east a species of the acacia tree which closes its leaves together in coils each day at sunset and curls its twigs to the shape of pig tails. After the tree has settled itself thus for a night's sleep, if touched the whole thing will flutter as if agitated or impatient at being disturbed. The oftener the foliage is molested, the more violent becomes the shaking of the branches, and at length the tree emits a nauseating odor, which, if inhaled, for a few moments, causes a violent dizzy headache. It has been named the "angry tree."

The growth of city clubs of high class has given cause to open eyed amazement in this generation, says the New York Tribune. In this metropolis there are two such organizations each of which has more than three thousand members and each of which owns real estate valued at many hundreds of thousands of dollars. Most of the well known clubs in this capital are flourishing and show in every way that they are managed with striking ability. Club life in the principal communities of this country has made giant strides in a third of a century.

According to the English papers the latest society craze seems to be the game of magic crosses. These crosses, of small size, and in a number of various colors, are laid on a table in a straight line and the person holds a magnet which he moves slowly down along the line of crosses. One by one, but not in rotation, the crosses are attached to the magnet, and when they are at last all arranged in order the expert can gain an insight into the character and fate of the experimenter. Even cabinet ministers have consulted the magic crosses.

Although not invited to do so the Philippine islands and Porto Rico will send delegates to the republican and democratic national conventions. These "non-contiguous" delegations will doubtless be seated.

Russia has not yet succeeded in terrorizing Europe with the story that the Chinese and the Japanese are arranging a race merger for the purpose of running the world with a high hand.

The combatants in the several race wars which are now going on in the United States have so far shown no inclination to submit their differences to The Hague tribunal for arbitration.

Officers of the law in La Crosse, Wis., can give Ohio and the southern states pointers on how to protect a prisoner against a mob of would-be lynchers.

School teachers of Washington have just organized for the purpose of obtaining higher salaries. The pupils hope they will go on strike.

The bloods in New York are running up against a drink called the Ping-Yang cocktail. The police say it is a great Chin-tung lubricator.

The fool punster seems to be the only American who can pronounce the Russ and Japanese with ease.

By supporting a winning baseball team ex-Congressman Fitzgerald hopes to become mayor of Boston.

So far most of the killed in the war in the far east have been captured spies.

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Mingling of Sexes Denounced.

New York, April 7.—The mingling of sexes at public bathing places has been declared by leading members of the W. C. T. U. of New Jersey to be "evil," "revolting" and "corrupt." These terms were applied during a discussion of the subject in the state convention at New York. Resolutions were adopted expressing horror at the situation and it is proposed by the backers of the movement to inaugurate a crusade against the practice at seaside resorts.

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